

# Kotek prevails in close governor's race

BY HILLARY BORUD  
The Oregonian

PORTLAND — Democrat Tina Kotek has won the race for Oregon governor, defeating Republican Christine Drazan.

It was a hard-fought and expensive win by Democrats, who have a huge party registration advantage in Oregon but faced strong headwinds this year amid voter frustration at problems including homelessness, violent crime and lackluster delivery of government programs and



Kotek

services.

As of 11 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 9, Kotek was ahead of Drazan by 30,000 votes, the state's tally showed. And Multnomah County had yet to tabulate results from 80,000 ballots it has logged as received by 10 a.m. Wednesday, state and county websites showed. With Multnomah voters favoring Kotek over Drazan by a better than 70% to 30% margin, those untallied votes in Oregon's biggest, bluest county can be expected to add another 30,000 votes to Kotek's

lead, The Oregonian/OregonLive projected.

Votes still untallied in other counties that favor Drazan, including Clackamas, Marion and Yamhill, won't be sufficient to erode Kotek's substantial margin, an analysis by The Oregonian/OregonLive shows.

Democratic Gov. Kate Brown's lowest-in-the-nation popularity rating was also widely viewed as a drag on Kotek's ability to win over voters, and the Democratic nominee attempted with increasing intensity to distance herself from Brown by criticizing the governor

## Baker County Results

Baker County residents strongly favored Republican Christine Drazan in the Oregon governor's race.

Drazan received 72% of the county's votes, with 6,232, compared to Democrat Tina Kotek's 1,451 votes (16.9%). Independent Betsy Johnson was third, with 821 votes (9.5%).

in debates and ads. Kotek also had to contend with an unusually well-funded unaffiliated candidate in Johnson, who

polling showed was attracting more Democratic voters than Republicans.

Kotek's win affirms just how difficult it is for a Republican candidate to win election to the state's highest office, which Republicans last held in 1987.

Now, Kotek will get the opportunity that she said on the campaign trail she wanted: to follow through on initiatives that Democrats passed in the Legislature but the state hasn't yet produced, such as the state's family and medical leave program that is expected to launch eight months late while workers forgo as much as \$453 million in benefits.

# Oregon passes Measure 114, one of strictest gun control measures in U.S.

BY MAXINE BERNSTEIN  
The Oregonian

Oregon voters passed one of the country's strictest gun control measures, a long-sought goal of a grassroots faith-based campaign.

Partial returns tallied as of 11:15 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 8 showed Measure 114 leading 51% to 49%.

Most of the votes left to be tallied were in Multnomah, Washington and Clackamas counties, all favoring or heavily favoring the measure.

The measure will require Oregonians to obtain a permit to buy a gun after completing a firearms safety course and would ban the sale or transfer of magazines that hold more than 10 rounds of ammunition.

It also will close the so-called Charleston loophole by requiring state police to complete full background checks on buyers with permits before any gun sale or transfer. Under federal law now, firearms dealers can sell guns without a completed background check if the check takes longer than three business days.

"We began this historic campaign to save lives with faith, and we remain hopeful as we wait for all of the votes to be counted," said the Rev. Mark Knutson, one of the chief petitioners, speaking earlier in the night to supporters gathered at Portland's Augustana Lutheran Church.

"We thank everyone that helped put Measure 114 on the ballot and supported us every step of the way, gathering signatures, knocking on doors, making phone calls, and turning those precious ballots in," he said. "We are eternally grateful for your strength and dedication."

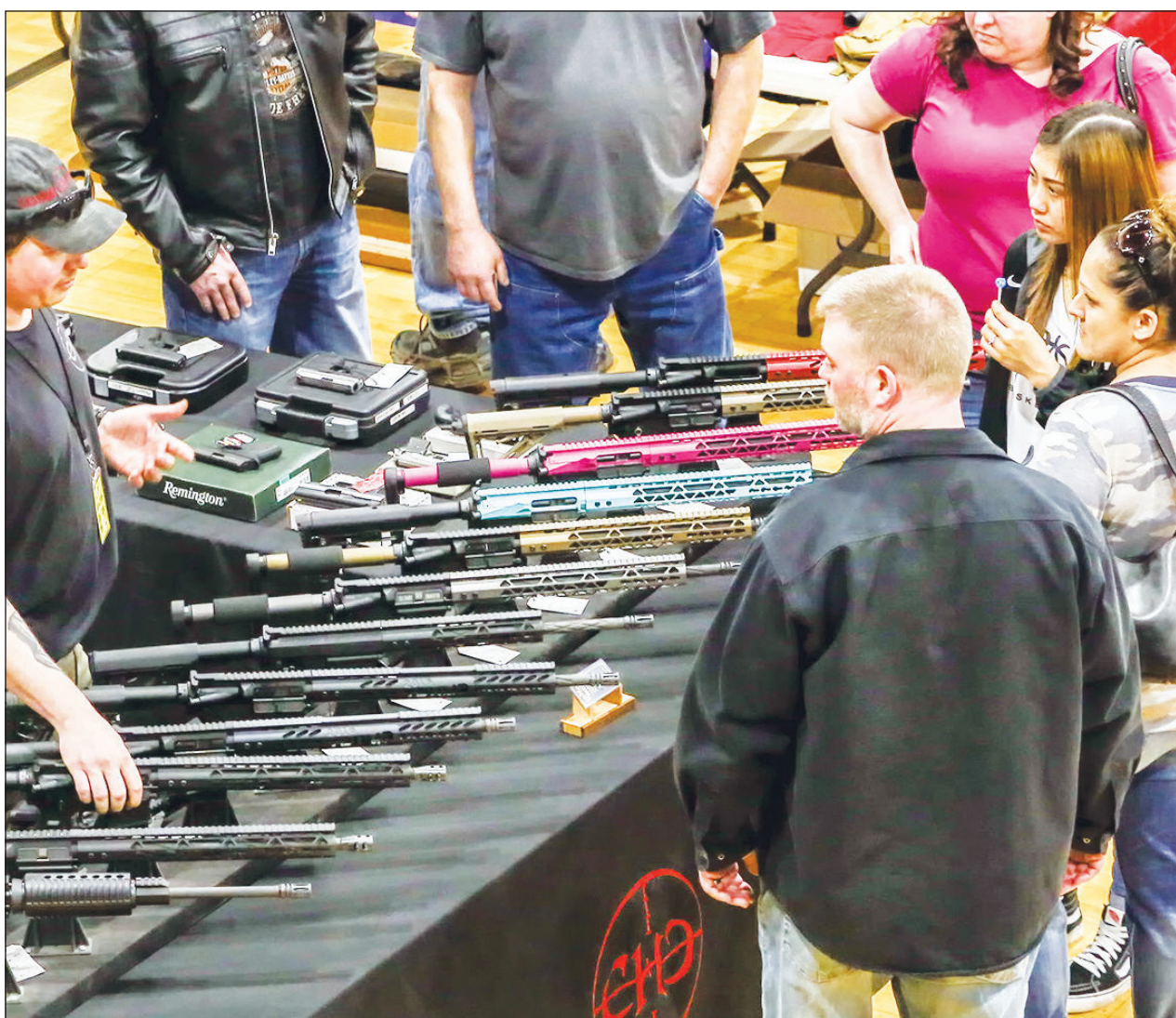
The highest support for the measure was in Multnomah County, with 75% to 25% in favor. The measure led in Washington County 62% to 38% and Clackamas County at 52% to 48%. The measure led in Lane County at 54% to 46% and in Deschutes County at 51% to 50%.

The measure was losing in Marion, Jackson, Linn and Douglas counties.

It drew national attention, gaining support from mass shooting survivors including David Hogg, who became a gun control activist after the 2018 shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida, and Joshua Friedland, who lost eight friends and classmates in the 2015 Umpqua Community College shooting in Roseburg.

"We know that throughout U.S. history change rarely comes from the federal government," Hogg said during the campaign. "Most often it comes from states and local governments, and this is an example of everyday people using their state government and working together to create a safer community to stop this violence before it touches them, too."

Friedland, now a forestry student seeking his master's and staff



Clay Winton, owner of Crosshair Customs in Baker City, chats with customers March 11, 2018, at the Pendleton Gun Show. The passage of Measure 114 on the November ballot in Oregon would make obtaining a gun more difficult and outlaw magazines that hold more than 10 rounds.

## How Did Baker County Vote?

### MEASURE 114: GUN PURCHASE RESTRICTIONS

Baker County

- No, **6,853 (81.3%)**
- Yes, 1,577 (18.7%)

### MEASURE 113: BAR LEGISLATORS FROM SEEKING RE-ELECTION IF THEY HAVE 10 OR MORE UNEXCUSED ABSENCES FROM A REGULAR OR SPECIAL SESSION

Baker County

- Yes, **4,619 (56%)**
- No, 3,622 (44%)

Measure 112: Would remove slavery (involuntary servitude) as a basis for criminal punishment

Baker County

- No, **5,877 (71.7%)**
- Yes, 2,324 (28.3%)

### MEASURE 111: WOULD GUARANTEE ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE AS A RIGHT IN THE OREGON CONSTITUTION.

Baker County

- No, **5,710 (69.6%)**
- Yes, 2,523 (30.6%)

at the Yale School of the Environment, said he suffered anxiety and depression and was on a suicide watch for months after the Roseburg carnage. He said he expects the measure could cut down on impulsive suicides because people won't be able to purchase a gun as quickly as they can now.

The chief petitioners behind the measure — Knutson of Portland's Augustana Lutheran Church, the church musical director Marilyn Keller and Congregation Beth Israel Rabbi Michael Cahana — awaited the results with other supporters at the church. U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley, D-Ore., stopped by the church and spoke with supporters in the church basement.

Lift Every Voice Oregon, the interfaith group that crafted the measure, launched shortly after the Parkland, Florida, school shooting four years ago that killed 17 students and staff and

injured 17 others. The group ran out of time to collect enough signatures for similar petitions that year. Bills reflecting the initiatives never got a hearing in the state Legislature in 2019 and the pandemic hampered signature-gathering efforts in 2020 and last year.

Days before the election, the backers marched to North Portland's Dawson Park to urge support. Three people

were killed in fatal shootings in or on the edge of the park in the last two years.

"We cannot stand idly by when our neighbor bleeds," Cahana said. "It's our attempt to make a difference."

Oregon joins Washington, D.C., and 14 other states that have enacted similar permit-to-purchase gun laws. Nine states and Washington, D.C., have adopted laws banning large-capacity ammunition magazines.

Ari Freilich, state policy director at the Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence, said the campaign and approval of the ballot measure has shown voters are ahead of their lawmakers on gun safety.

"A lot of folks will be looking to Oregon on how it's implemented," he said.

Under the proposal, anyone who wants to buy a gun will have to obtain a permit, pay an anticipated \$65 fee, complete an approved firearms safety course at their own expense, submit a photo ID, be fingerprinted and pass a criminal background check. Proponents raised \$2.4

million during the campaign, with Connie Ballmer, a Seattle philanthropist and University of Oregon alumna, the top contributor, donating \$750,000.

Ballmer is married to billionaire Steve Ballmer, the former CEO of Microsoft and current owner of the Los Angeles Clippers NBA basketball team.

Opponents raised a fraction of that, just over \$200,000, and will draw a state penalty for late reporting of a \$25,700 donation from a National Rifle Association fund based in Virginia, according to state officials.

Critics, including the Oregon Firearms Federation, the National Rifle Association and the Oregon Sportsmen's Alliance, called the measure costly and said its unwieldy process will block prospective lawful gun owners.

Kevin Starrett, director of the firearms federation, has argued the measure violates the Second Amendment and will be challenged in court. He called it "impossible to comply with" and said it won't have the desired impact.

# Democrat Ron Wyden wins re-election to U.S. Senate

BY GILLIAN FLACCUS  
Associated Press

PORTLAND — Oregon's senior U.S. senator, Democrat Ron Wyden, won reelection easily Tuesday, Nov. 8, defeating a Republican opponent who has never held elected office.

Wyden, who was first elected to the Senate in 1996, chairs the powerful U.S. Senate Finance Committee and also sits on the Energy and Natural Resources, Budget and Intelligence Committees.

As legislative accomplishments, he points to his work on clean energy tax credits — including a key role in the passage of the Inflation Reduction Act — prescription drug price reduction measures, tax reform and boosting the semiconductor manufacturing industry.

Wyden, 73, is known for holding town halls in each of Oregon's 36 counties, with thousands of those gatherings taking place over the years.

He previously served in the U.S. House of Representatives, representing Oregon's 3rd Congressional District from 1981 to 1996.

Wyden raised \$13.8 million this election cycle, according to Federal Elections Commission campaign finance reports.

His Republican opponent, 66-year-old Jo Rae Perkins from Albany, Oregon, previously made unsuccessful runs for the Senate in 2014 and for the 4th Congressional District in 2016 and 2018. She received 33% of the vote in the Republican primary.

Perkins, who has a background in the financial services industry, calls herself a "Main Street American" and has voiced support for QAnon conspiracy theorists. She questions the validity of President Joe Biden's 2020 victory, opposes COVID-19 mask and vaccine mandates and does not support abortion for any reason.

She raised more than \$92,000, according to FEC records.

A third candidate, Chris Henry of the Oregon Progressive Party, is a truck driver and airplane mechanic who ran for Oregon Commissioner of Labor and Industries this year but was defeated in the May primary.

## Baker County Results

Baker County had a strong preference for Republican Jo Rae Perkins, who lost her race against incumbent Democrat Ron Wyden in a race for U.S. Senate.

In Baker County, Perkins received 5,816 votes (68.5%) to Wyden's 2,488 votes (29.3%).

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